IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please enter these claims as amended.

1. through 3. (Canceled).

4. (currently amended) ~~An improvement in a~~ process for preparing crystals of (7", 17") -17-hydroxy-7-methyl-19-nor-17-pregn-5(10)-en-20-yn-3-one, ~~the improvement~~ comprising aging crystals of (7", 17")-17-hydroxy-7-methyl-19-nor-17-pregn-5(10)-en-20-yn-3-one in the presence of water for a period of time of at least 24 hours.

5. (currently amended) The ~~improvement~~ process of claim 4 wherein the period of time lasts 3-6 days.

6. (currently amended) The ~~improvement~~ process of claim 4, wherein the crystals are formed in the last step of a synthesis comprising the steps of:

a. reacting (7", 17") -3, 3-dimethoxy-17-hydroxy-7- methyl-19-norpregn-5 (10) en-20-yn-3-one in an organic solvent with a weak acidic aqueous solution,

b. pouring out the solution in water which is slightly alkaline, and

c. washing the crystals with water which is slightly alkaline.

7. through 20. (Canceled).

21. (new) The process of claim 4, wherein the process is carried out by washing crystals of tibolone with water, and drying the tibolone after at least 24 hours of the washing, wherein the tibolone contains less than 0.5% by weight relative to tibolone of Org OM38 as an impurity after drying.

22. (New) The process of claim 4, wherein the water is alkaline.

23. (New) The process of claim 22, wherein the water is mixed with pyridine.

24. (New) The process of claim 21, wherein the crystals are obtained by filtration after crystallization.

24. (New) The process of claim 21, wherein the drying is carried out after at least 3 days.

25. (New) The process of claim 4, wherein the impurity is less than 0.25% by weight.

26. (New) The process of claim 25, wherein the impurity is less than 0.1% by weight.

27. (New) The process of claim 21, wherein the impurity is less than 0.25% by weight.

28. (New) The process of claim 25, wherein the impurity is less than 0.1% by weight.